

# A SCIENTIST just like me



**Tessa Nash**  
**Poultry scientist**

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**Hi there! I am Tessa Nash – A poultry scientist**



## **Where do I work?**

I mostly work at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh, but I also spend time abroad with an animal health medicine company who help to fund my research.

## **What did I like doing when I was at school?**

I loved biology at school because I like learning about how the body works, about animals, the living world and about bacteria and viruses.

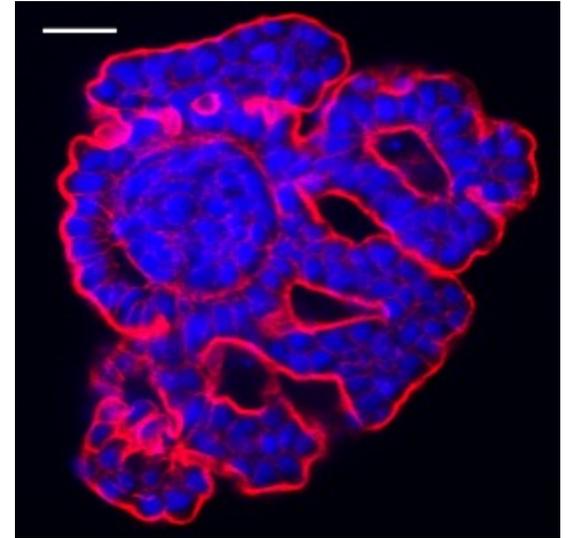
## **What do I like doing in my spare time?**

I love running in the Pentland hills near Edinburgh. I also work on weekends as a vet, which used to be my full-time job.

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## What do I do as a poultry scientist?

I developed a mini model of a chicken's gut that grows in a lab dish. I did this using special cells called stem cells, which can grow into lots of other types of cells. We are now using my mini-guts to study diseases which infect the guts of chickens.



## How does what I do make the world a better place?

Just like us, chickens catch diseases and get ill, and sometimes those diseases can spread to people as well as other chickens. But we don't have many tools to study chickens in the lab. So, our mini-gut model allows us to study chicken gut diseases to help us keep both chickens and people healthy.

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## What I like about my job



I really like discovering new things and showing other people what I have found. I also love the variety of my job: I work in the lab, on the computer, with chickens, and I go to international conferences to discuss exciting research with many other scientists.

## Challenges I have faced

I had to do a lot of experiments to work out the special growth conditions needed to develop my mini-guts. Since lots of techniques didn't work, I needed patience and I had to persevere with problem-solving. Thankfully, I had help from other poultry scientists.

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If you want to be a poultry scientist, you need:

- ✱ **good organisational skills** so your time at work is efficient
- ✱ **creativity and problem solving skills** to develop new ideas and to think outside the box
- ✱ **practical skills** as being good with your hands will help in the lab - some of our work requires very precise measurements.
- ✱ **a love of learning** - almost every day as a researcher you get to learn new skills and read new research from other scientists.



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## Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a poultry scientist like Tessa Nash?

**Why? Why not?**

- ✦ What skills and interests do you already have that would help you become a poultry scientist?
- ✦ What new skills and knowledge would you need to develop?



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Tessa Nash is a STEM Ambassador. Click [here](#) to access free STEM Ambassador support and resources.

## Free supporting resources for poultry science

[I bet you didn't know...](#) articles use cutting-edge science research as a context for learning. Teacher Guides describing the research and activities and investigations for children can be used as classroom presentations. See:

- How to grow a new skin – this article explain how scientists have grown skin cells in a laboratory

Created by the Primary Science Teaching Trust

